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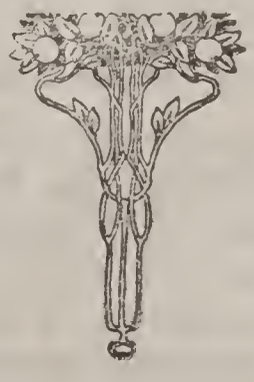
STATEMENT FROM ENTIRE COLORED
DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL
PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION
CHICAGO, AUG. 7, 1912.



THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE!

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STATEMENT FROM ENTIRE COLORED DELEGATION OF THE NATIONAL PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION, CHICAGO, AUGUST 7, 1912.

We, the undersigned, being all the colored delegates and alternates present at the National Progressive Convention, held in Chicago, August 5th, 6th and 7th, 1912, in order to correct certain erroneous and misleading statements sent out by the press to the country at large, and at the same time, in order to urge upon all American citizens the support of the Progressive Party, do issue the following statement:

For the first time in the history of the country, colored citizens of the North and East have been sitting as delegates in a great National Convention, freely participating in every function of the same, a privilege heretofore enjoyed only by the colored delegates from the South. This recognition and participation of the colored delegate forever fixes his status as a Charter Member of the Progressive Party—a New Political Party—which knows no North, no South, no East, no West, no Race, no Creed, no Sex—but only American Citizenship as a party requisite.

LILY WHITISM.

By reasons of irregularity and non-compliance with the call issued for the State Convention the State of Florida—in which were held two conventions, one colored and one white—was denied representation upon the floor of the National Convention. In the State of Mississippi, where two conventions were also held, one a mixed convention of colored and white, and the other white only, the mixed delegation was denied admission and the white delegation was seated; the mixed delegation admitting that they did not claim the legality of their convention, because they did not meet in compliance with the authorized call. But, in seating the white delegation, by a vote of 17 to 16, the Committee on Credentials in their report, condemned the action of the Provisional Chairman, who issued his call to whites only, in the following language: "We regard the Fridge delegates as entitled to seats in this convention, but disavow that part of the call contained in the word "White." We approve the position taken in the letter addressed to Julian Harris, of Georgia, by Theodore Roosevelt—which said report of the Committee on Credentials was approved and unanimously

The Bequest of
Daniel Murray
Washington, D. C.

adopted by the National Convention, thus putting the National Progressive Convention on record against "a white man's party." On the Committee on Credentials were two colored delegates, Dr. George E. Cannon, of Jersey City, New Jersey, and Julius L. Mitchell, Attorney-at-Law, of Providence, R. I.

The charge of "lily-whitism" against the National Progressive Convention is false. Arkansas elected a mixed delegation, with five colored delegates, four of whom attended the Convention; Tennessee sent one, Kentucky one, Maryland two and West Virginia two. The charge of "lily-whitism" was made for the sole and specific purpose of engendering political strife and embarrassment, and with the hope of alienating the colored vote. No heed, nor the slightest credence should be given to the numberless, unfair, distorted and malicious reports of a hostile press, sent out against the National Convention of the Progressive Party—a Convention whose genuine enthusiasm, numerical strength, high-class delegates, brainy, experienced leaders, challenge comparison with any similar body ever assembled within the annals of our country.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS.

The following colored delegates served on the regular committees:

Committee on Credentials.

Julius L. Mitchell, Attorney-at-Law, Providence, R. I.
Dr. Geo. E. Cannon, Jersey City, New Jersey.

Permanent Organization.

Dr. S. G. Elbert, Wilmington, Del.
Joseph P. Evans, Baltimore, Md.

Notification.

Dr. J. R. Wilder, Washington, D. C.

J. R. Gleed, New York City, seconded the nomination of Governor Johnson for Vice-President.

We hail with sincere rejoicing the advent of the Progressive Party and the strong men who are leading the same, seeing in them the men and the long sought opportunity, for breaking up the unkind and harsh political and civic conditions of the South—conditions created by the Democratic Party, and which the Republican Party found itself unable to overcome. With the coming of the Progressive Party—new men, with new ideas, new party principles, and new party alignments, will have a greater opportunity to awaken the public conscience and bring about the long needed reforms so anxiously awaited by the people of the South.

We most heartily welcome the leadership of Theodore Roosevelt—a man of courage, convictions and unquestioned in-

tegrity; whose great deeds have made him world famous—impulsive, but sincere—quick, but always reliable.

We hail with highest admiration Governor Johnson, the Giant of the West, and we greet with loud acclaim Senator Dixon, the magnetic, incomparable political General—a triumvirate which has done things, and which will yet do greater things for the Progressive Party, and all the people of the land.

POPULAR SUBSCRIPTION.

To the end that we may help while being helped, that we may benefit while being benefited, we urgently call upon every colored man, woman and child to join us in a nation-wide popular subscription to help forward the cause of the Progressive Party. Let all give and place the Colored Citizen in the same class with the other citizens of the country. Let us act like men and women, and we will be treated as men and women.

For the Progressive Party,

For ROOSEVELT and JOHNSON.

Signed:

J. R. GLEED (broker), New York City.
JAMES E. CHURCHMAN, Orange, N. J.
(Rev.) JOHN C. LOVE, Montclair, N. J.
DR. C. T. BRANCH, Camden, N. J.
DR. GEO. E. CANNON, Jersey City, N. J.
(Rev) G. L. P. TALIAFERO, Philadelphia, Pa., editor Christion Banner.
J. W. HOLMES, Attorney-at-Law, Pittsburgh, Pa.
DR. S. G. ELBERT, Wilmington, Del.
JULIUS L. MITCHELL, Attorney-at-Law, Providence, R. I.
JOSEPH P. EVANS, Baltimore, Md.
L. H. DAVENPORT, Baltimore, Md.
DR. JAMES R. WILDER, Washington, D. C.
GEORGE COLLINS, Attorney-at-Law, Washington, D. C.
J. R. POLLARD, Attorney-at-Law, Richmond, Va.
JOHN C. GILMER, State Librarian, Charleston, W. Va.
C. H. JAMES, Charleston, W. Va.
W. A. LEWIS, Nashville, Tenn.
THOMAS PEARSON, Attorney-at-Law, Chicago, Ill.
W. A. BELL, Dayton, O.
BISHOP J. M. CONNER, Little Rock, Ark.
DR. H. W. SUGGS, Little Rock, Ark.
DR. W. E. WATSON, Texarkana, Ark.
E. T. ALEXANDER, Helena, Arkansas.
A. H. CABELL, Henderson, Ky.

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